



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality

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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

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DEQ, EPA TO FURTHER CLEAR CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM ST. GABRIEL, LOUISIANA SITE

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are considering a joint effort to clean up contaminated soil in a residential area near St. Gabriel, Louisiana. The soil is contaminated with low-level radioactive material resulting from an accident at Coastal Radiation Services, which probably occurred sometime between 1977-1979. The site is located less than 20 miles from Baton Rouge, on Bayou Paul Road.

Cesium-137, a radioactive isotope used in industrial level gauges, leaked onto the ground and contaminated soil at the now-defunct Coastal Radiation Services, Inc. site and adjacent properties. Coastal Radiation provided radiation-consulting services and disposed of instruments containing radioactive material. The Company removed and disposed of much of the contaminated soil in 1979 and 1980, consistent with radiation dose standards in effect at the time.

“DEQ has adopted new and more stringent standards since the earlier clean-up of this site,” according to Bobby Mayweather, Manager of DEQ’s Capital Regional Office. “As a result of follow-up inspections, the Department of Environmental Quality has reassessed the contamination levels and determined that the site should be further cleaned to meet the current standards.”

The EPA has agreed to fund the initial site assessment and is considering providing funding for the project under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund). Actual site remediation is expected to begin in early March and be completed in May, 2001.

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